

**NH Department of Health and Human Services  
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PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DHHS Identifies First Positive Test Of EEE This Year In Mosquito Pool Found In Danville**

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today announced the first positive test for eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) this year. A mosquito pool from the town of Danville, in Rockingham County, tested positive for the disease. This is the first indication of EEE in New Hampshire this year, after the disease was identified in 2004 and 2005. Last year, there were seven human cases of EEE, including two deaths.

“While we fully expected to see EEE in New Hampshire this year, this positive test should send the message that people need to begin engaging in prevention,” said John Stephen, DHHS Commissioner. “While many communities are engaging in mosquito control activities, the best way to protect your family and yourself is take simple prevention steps. That is why we urge everybody to use effective insect repellent and try to wear long sleeves and pants while outside at dusk and dawn, when mosquito activity is at its highest. I also hope that with the heavy rains we have seen this year, people take extra efforts to remove any standing water from their property and surroundings.”

DHHS has a toll-free Hotline for EEE/West Nile Virus at 1-866-273-6453. Anyone with questions can call from 8 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday, for information about these viruses. As of yesterday, the State Public Health Lab has tested 3445 mosquito pools, 4 horses, 33 birds and 54 humans across the state for EEE and West Nile Virus. DHHS is also working with medical providers and local health officials so that they can identify symptoms of EEE early and test for the disease in humans. Considerable resources about EEE and West Nile virus are available on the DHHS website ([www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov)).

“We have dramatically increased our surveillance for EEE and West Nile Virus across the state,” said Dr. Jose Montero, State Epidemiologist. “With the high level of EEE activity, we have seen in this area over the past two years, this finding is not unexpected. People should still continue going outside, enjoying themselves and getting exercise, just be careful to take preventive measures, like wearing mosquito repellent.”

**Prevention Guidelines for West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis  
NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services**

1. Eliminate standing water and other mosquito breeding locations. In warm weather, mosquitoes can breed in any puddle that lasts more than 4 days!
  - Remove old tires from your property.
  - Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or other containers. Don't overlook containers that have become overgrown by aquatic vegetation.
  - Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outside.
  - Make sure roof gutters are clean and draining properly.
  - Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs. If not in use, keep empty and covered and keep covers free of standing water.
  - Aerate garden ponds or stock them with fish.

- Turn over wheelbarrows and change water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.
  - Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
  - Remind or help neighbors to eliminate breeding sites on their properties.
2. Be aware of where mosquitoes live and breed and keep them from entering your home.
- Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Weeds, tall grass, and bushes provide an outdoor home for the adult *Culex pipiens* mosquito (the common northern house mosquito), which is most commonly associated with West Nile virus.
  - Mosquitoes can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors, or broken screens. Make sure that doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace all screens in your home that have tears or holes.
  - Resting mosquitoes can often be flushed from indoor resting sites by using sweeping motions under beds, behind bedside tables etc. and once in flight, exterminated prior to sleeping at night.
3. Protect yourself from mosquito bites.
- If outside during evening, nighttime, and dawn hours when mosquitoes are most active and likely to bite, children and adults should wear protective clothing such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
  - Consider the use of an effective insect repellent, such as one containing DEET. A repellent containing 10% or less DEET (N,N-diethyl-methyl-meta-toluamide) for children, and no more than 30% DEET for adults. Use DEET according to the manufacturer's directions. Children should not apply DEET to themselves. Repellents that contain Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus have also been determined to be effective.
  - Vitamin B, ultrasonic devices, incense, and bug zappers have not been shown to be effective in preventing mosquito bites.

For more information on West Nile Virus, call the NH Department of Health and Human Services toll-free West Nile Virus Information Line at 866-273-NILE (6543), or visit the West Nile Virus Website at [www.dhhs.nh.gov](http://www.dhhs.nh.gov).